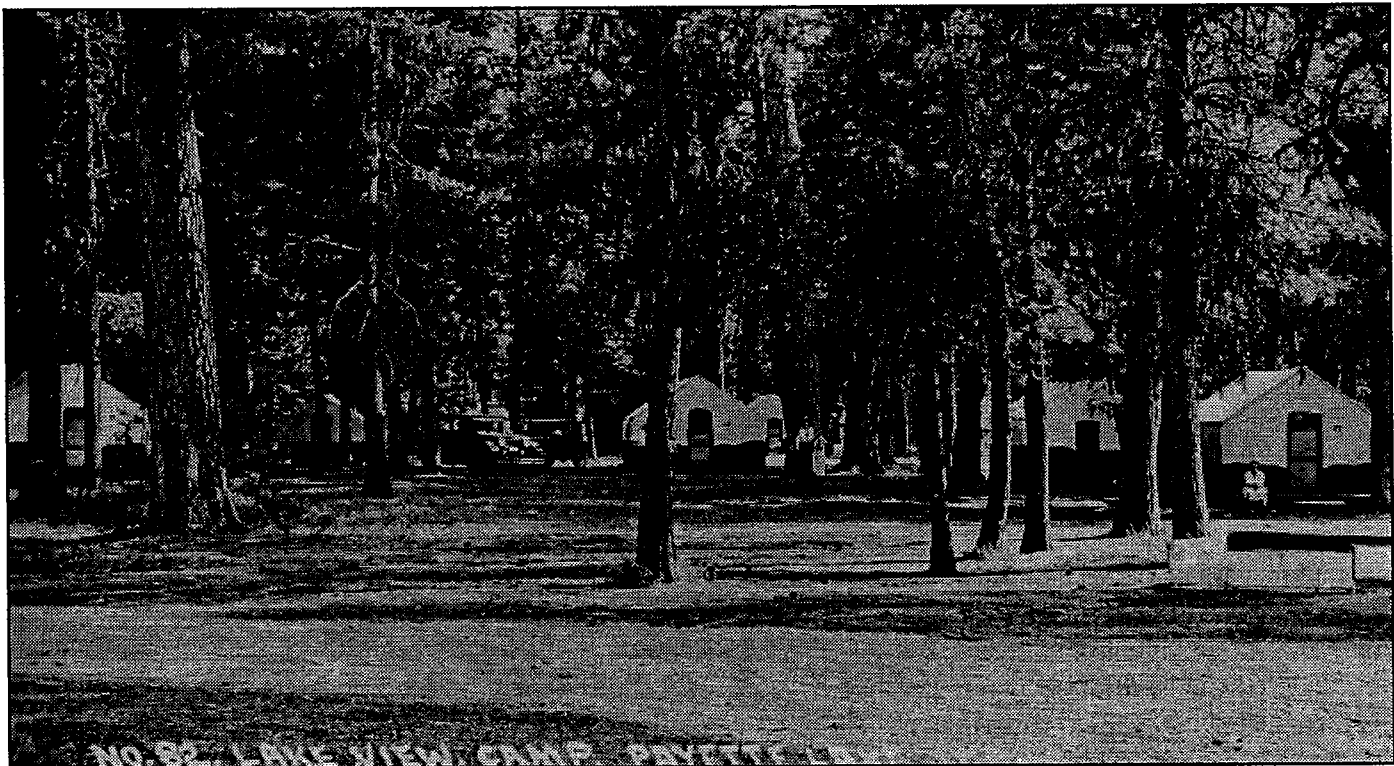




## CHAPTER 9

*Park Operations*

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*"Lakeview" camp, Payette Lake. Photo courtesy of Idaho State Historical Society.*

## THE STATE PARK SYSTEM

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation currently operates a system of twenty-three park facilities. These facilities are depicted on map 9.1. The statewide headquarters for the IDPR system is located in Boise. Operational administration of the system is divided between two regions. The north region manager, located in Coeur d'Alene, administers nine state parks; the south region manager, located in Meridian, administers thirteen state parks and one national reserve. Ponderosa is the northern-most state park administered by the south region.

### ADMINISTRATION OF PONDEROSA STATE PARK

Ponderosa State Park contains two units: the Peninsula unit and the North Beach unit. At this time the park also operates Lakeview Village. Both park units are operated from a headquarters office located on the Peninsula; Lakeview Village has a subsidiary office on-site.

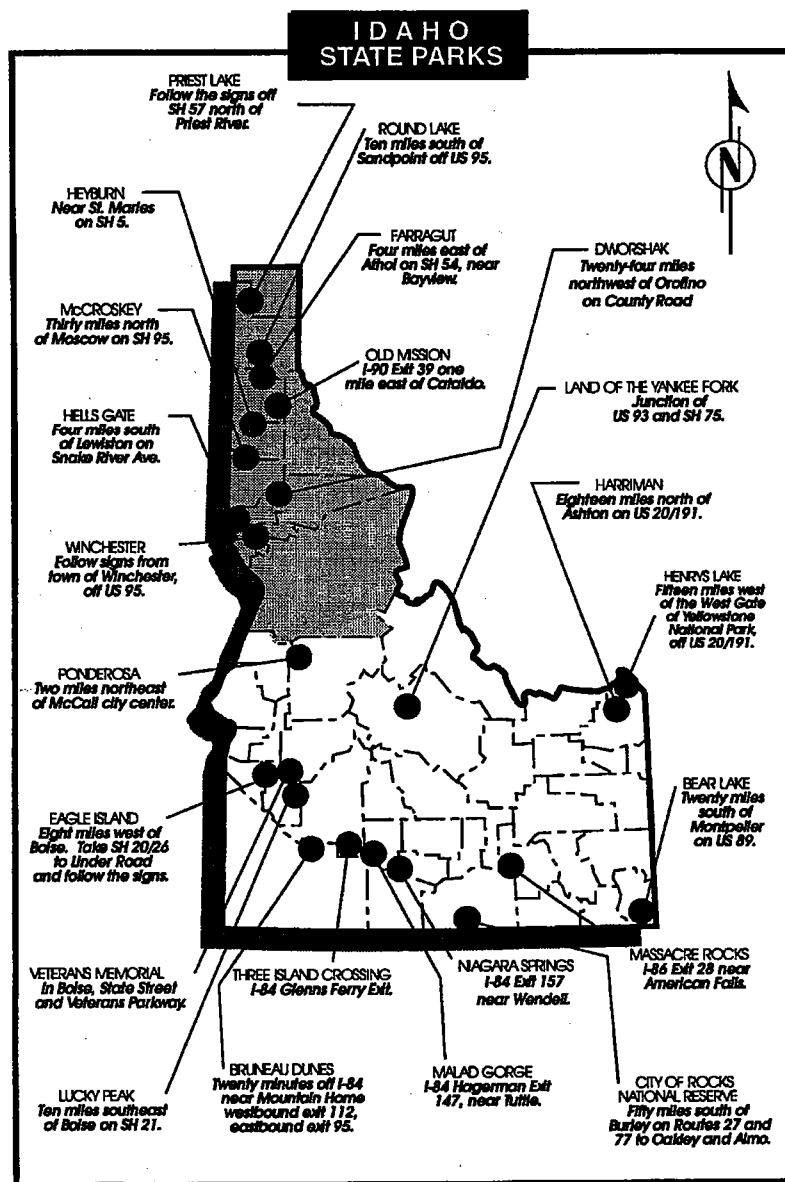
#### Primary Use Seasons

##### Camping

The camping season at Ponderosa usually begins in late May and extends through the end of September. Almost 70% of all camping occurs during July and August.

##### X-C Skiing

The X-C skiing season usually begins in December and continues through the end of March.



#### Hours of Park Operation

During the peak summer use season, the visitor center is open from 9 am to 10 pm. A park employee is always on-duty from 8 am until midnight or 1 am. During the winter season, the visitor center is staffed from 8 am until 4:30 pm.

State park location  
Map 9.1

### **Ponderosa State Park 'Mission' Statement**

In 1993, the Ponderosa park staff prepared the following 'mission' statement for inclusion into the IDPR Strategic Plan that is currently being prepared:

*The mission of Ponderosa State Park is the preservation, management and interpretation of the park's significant ecosystems. These ecosystems include unique old growth Ponderosa pine and a marsh. The park functions to provide for the use and enjoyment of these areas in a manner that enhances understanding and appreciation, while leaving them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations and protecting visitor safety. Recreational facilities will be provided to an extent compatible with the resource. Park staff also works to support regional recreational interests.*

### **PARK LAND BASE**

Ponderosa park staff currently manages 1,424 acres of land. At this time, IDPR is in the process of acquiring an additional 32 acres from the Idaho department of lands for inclusion into the peninsula unit. The breakdown of the land base is as follows:

Peninsula unit- 886 acres  
North Beach unit- 490 acres.  
Lakeview Village lease- 48 acres

### **PONDEROSA PARK PERSONNEL**

#### **Permanent employees**

During fiscal year 1993, the compliment of permanent staff at Ponderosa State Park consisted of six 12-month positions: One *Park Manager*, two *Assistant Managers*, and three *Park Rangers*.

#### **Seasonal employees**

At the present time, a total of twelve seasonal positions exist. Seasonal employees work at Ponderosa State Park and at the Lakeview Village facility. The position descriptions and their approximate duration of employment are as follows:

•**One Maintenance Craftsman:** This position is funded for 90 days, May-October.

•**Two Senior Maintenance Aides:** These positions are funded for 75 days, May-August.

•**Six Maintenance Aides:** These positions are funded for 70 days, May-August.

•**One Senior Receptionist/Cashier:** This position is funded for a total 90 days; May-August (full time) and January-March (part-time).

•**Five and one-half Receptionist Aide** positions exist; these positions are funded for 70 days May-August.

•**One Receptionist/Interpreter:** This position is funded for 70 days May-August.

•**One Interpreter:** This position is funded for 90 days May-August.

**Additional Staffing Requirements:**

With one exception, the current level of permanent and seasonal staffing is adequate to accomplish the parks mission. A permanent, nine-month Cashier/Receptionist is needed to improve visitor service and ease demands currently placed on other park staff. Continued increases in park visitation, reservations, X-C ski activity and telephone communications demand the time of permanent staff that would be more productively spent on maintenance and planning. At times, simple services like opening the visitor center and answering the telephone are not possible. Increased funding for seasonal positions will be required as development occurs and services are expanded to satisfy visitor demand at North Beach.

**PARK VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT**

At this time the following major items of equipment are listed on the parks inventory. The replacement value of this equipment is estimated to be approximately \$ 370,000.00.

1967 Glastron outboard motorboat  
 1973 Dodge 1-ton flatbed  
 1977 Dodge 1/2 ton Pick-up  
 1977 Dodge 2-1/2 ton Dump truck  
 1979 Ford 1-ton Garbage truck  
 1979 Skidoo 'Alpine' snowmobile  
 1980 Chevrolet Luv Pick-up  
 1986 Ford 3/4 ton pick-up  
 1987 Kassbohrer over-snow vehicle  
 1987 Ford Escort

1988 Chevrolet 1/2 ton 4x4

1990 Ford 'Versatile' tractor/loader/backhoe

**PONDEROSA PARK OPERATION****Cost of Operations**

In FY 1993, the park operated on a \$52,000.00 operations and expense (O&E) budget. Fixed costs account for approximately 80% of this budget, and these costs increase yearly as the park experiences continued increases in visitation. Consequently, about \$10,200.00 remains annually to fund new programs and projects. The total budget for seasonal employees in FY 1993 was \$54,750.00; the budget for permanent employees during the same period was \$207,487.00.

**Revenue Generated**

The park generates revenue by collecting fees for motorized vehicle entrance, campsite rentals, utility hook-ups, extra vehicle fees, reservations, group use of the picnic shelter, and authorized concession operations. The fees collected by IDPR fund development and maintenance of parks and recreation programs. During FY '93, Ponderosa State park generated approximately \$289,100.00 from these sources.

## LAKEVIEW VILLAGE OPERATION

### IDL Lease

The Idaho Department of Lands has agreed to lease this 48-acre facility to IDPR until March, 1997. The continued long-term lease or acquisition of this facility is crucial to the successful implementation of the visitor-management strategy proposed in the GDP for the peninsula unit. The lease payment for this facility was \$53,000 in FY'93. It is currently \$69,000, and will escalate to \$78,000.00 in FY '95. The lease with IDL requires that all revenue generated exceeding the cost of operation be returned to the endowment fund. Future lease rates remain to be determined.

### Cost of Operations

During FY 1993, seasonal personnel costs for the Lakeview Village facility were approximately \$21,000.00; the operation and expense budget was \$34,500.00.

In FY'93, the administrative personnel costs incurred at Lakeview Village was included as a component of the Ponderosa park budget.

### Revenue generated

The Lakeview Village facility generates revenue by collecting fees for short-term and long-term campsite rental, and the rental of long-term mobile home sites. The Lakeview village operation generated approximately \$153,100 during FY 1993.

## PONDEROSA LAND-LEASE AGREEMENTS

### Girl Scout Lease

IDPR leases 58 acres of undeveloped property to the Girl Scouts of America (GSA). This property is adjacent to their Camp Pittenger facility, and is used by the GSA camp as an adjunct for dispersed campsites and general recreation. This lease generates \$4,300.00 annually.

## CONCESSION AGREEMENTS

The park currently has one authorized concession. In 1993 *Silver Pig Enterprises* was granted a canoe rental concession at the North Beach unit. This operation is a valuable component of the 'Payette River Interpretive Trail' concept outlined in chapter six of the GDP. This concession generated \$82.00 during FY '93.

## VOLUNTEER SERVICES

The Ponderosa Natural History Association (PNHA) is an integral part of the parks interpretive program. The association assists the program through the sale of books, postcards and T-shirts. The association consists of volunteers who support the park and assist with special events. In the past, the Association has purchased such things as audio-visual equipment, interpretive resource materials, and visitor center interpretive exhibits. The association will continue to play an essential role in the future.

## **INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION**

The park receives a great deal of expertise and assistance from numerous agencies. The organizations that frequently lend their support to park operations include:

United States Forest Service- prescribed burning

Southern Idaho Timber Protection Association- fire suppression

McCall Police Department- law enforcement back-up

Valley County Sheriffs Department- law enforcement back-up

Idaho State Police- law enforcement back-up

Idaho Department of Employment- seasonal employee recruitment

Southwest Idaho Private Industry Council- summer youth work crews

Idaho Department of Lands- timber sale

Idaho Department of Fish & Game- interpretation

U.S. Soil Conservation Service- erosion control & soil conservation

University of Idaho College of Forestry- forest management plan

## **VISITOR SERVICES**

### **Special Events**

Each year the park sponsors a variety of special events designed to increase awareness of the parks availability to the public. Spring and summer events typically include such activities as an Easter egg hunt; the annual Ponderosa 'Fun Run'; a

'Frisbee-Golf' tournament; and 'Shakespeare-in-the-Park'. Several annual group-camping occasions have reached enormous proportions, and have become 'special events' in and of themselves. During the winter months, typical events include a 'Turkey Trot'; a Winter Start Race; Winter Carnival X-C Ski Poker Run, Cross-Country Idaho; and an 'Ides of March' race.

### **Reservation / Registration System**

A computerized camper registration program has increased staff efficiency with statistical information, operational information needs and the expedited processing of camper reservation requests. Ponderosa has experienced a 100% increase in reservation requests since 1988.

## **PARK RADIO COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

The park maintains a radio base-station at the visitor center and at the entrance kiosk. Two park vehicles are equipped with mobile two-way radios, and the park possesses six portable, hand-held units. These radios provide direct communication with Valley County Sheriffs Department, the McCall Fire Department, the Southern Idaho Timber Protection Association, and the Idaho Fish and Game Department.